

do in no other way. You will learn that the joy of mastering a new skill or discovering a new insight is exceeded only by the joy of helping someone else do the same thing. You will know the satisfaction of being valued not for what you own or what you earn or what position you hold but just because of what you have given to someone else. You will understand in personal ways the wisdom of the words spoken years ago by Martin Luther King, who said, "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve."

I ask you all, my fellow Americans, to support our proposal for national service and to live a proposal for national service, to learn the meaning of America at its best, and to recreate for others America at its best. We are not just another country. We have always been a special kind of community, linked by a web of rights and responsibilities and bound together not by bloodlines but by beliefs. At an age in time when people all across the world are being literally torn apart by racial hatreds, by ethnic hatreds, by religious divisions, we are a nation, with all of our problems, where people can come together across racial and religious lines and hold hands and work together not just to endure our differences but to celebrate them. I ask you to make America celebrate that again.

I ask you, in closing, to commit yourselves to this season of service because America needs it. We need every one of you to live up to the fullest of your potential, and we need you to reach those who are not here and who will never hear this talk and who will never have the future they could otherwise have if not for something that you could do. The great challenge of your generation is to prove that every person here in this great land can live up to the fullest of their God-given capacity. If we do it, the 21st century will be the American century. The American dream will be kept alive if you will today answer the call to service.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:15 p.m. at Rutgers University. In his remarks, he referred to Nakia Tomlinson, a student at Rutgers University,

and Benjamin Barber, founder of the Rutgers Civic Education and Community Service Program.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With the Democratic Congressional Leadership

March 2, 1993

Spending Cuts

Q. Mr. President, we hear you're not going to ask for any more spending cuts. Is that right?

The President. Where did you hear that?

Q. Well, there's a little piece in the paper that says somebody on your staff admitted that, well, they didn't really think you'd be able to find any more spending cuts.

The President. Well, I expect there will be a lot more as we go along. I just don't think we should shut the Congress down while we all look for them. Keep in mind that we've got more than they've had in a long time, and we need to go forward with this program. But I think you'll see a continuous stream of them coming out as we go along.

Q. From you?

The President. From me and from others.

Bosnia

Q. Mr. President, are you satisfied with the airdrops in Bosnia, the success of the airdrops?

The President. Well, the last report I got this morning was pretty good, based on the last information I had. And I haven't talked directly to General Powell today, but he thinks they've gone pretty well, and I have to rely partly on—largely on his judgment.

Q. How long do you think they need to go on there?

The President. I don't have an answer to that now.

NOTE: The exchange began at 10:19 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Secretary General Manfred Woerner of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization
March 2, 1993

Branch Davidian Religious Sect Standoff

Q. Mr. President, the incident in Waco appears to be ending. Do you have any misgivings at all about how that was executed?

The President. I don't think now is the time to discuss that. I'm pleased that it's ending. I think it's ending in a way that's very consistent with a similar incident that occurred in my State, very similar, when I was Governor there many years ago.

Q. Are you satisfied that the appropriate action was taken in the first place?

The President. I don't think this is the time for me to comment on that. It's not appropriate at this time for me to comment on it.

Haiti

Q. Are you having any second thoughts about your criticism of George Bush's Haiti policy during the campaign, given that today you went to court to essentially support his position?

The President. But our position is different. Our position now is that there's a difference if there are extreme circumstances, and I think there are. You know, maybe I was too harsh in my criticism of him, but I still think there's a big difference between what we're doing in Haiti and what they were doing in Haiti. And there's a big difference between the kinds of problems that are created by the Haitian circumstance. I mean, something that was never brought up before but is now painfully apparent is that if we did what the plaintiffs in the court case want, we would be consigning a very large number of Haitians, in all probability, to some sort of death warrant. I mean, if you look at how many people have been lost at sea, look at the number of people who died not even trying to come to the United States in a much shorter trip recently, given the means they had to get here, the kinds of boats they have and all of that.

We have now cut from 2 months down to 1 week the amount of time it takes to process people who want to be considered to be refugees in Haiti. When we bring people back, we meet them there now. We don't just let them get dispersed into the country. We're going out into the country and doing the refugee handling. So it's a very different set of circumstances than it was.

NOTE: The exchange began at 4:25 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's Meeting With Secretary General Woerner

March 2, 1993

The President welcomed NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner to the White House today. The President reaffirmed the fundamental importance of NATO and the transatlantic relationship and his commitment to maintaining a significant American military presence in Europe to defend the interests of the United States and its allies and friends.

The President and Secretary General Woerner discussed the crisis in the former Yugoslavia and what actions NATO could take to support the efforts of the international community to bring that tragedy to a peaceful conclusion.

In addition, the President and Secretary General Woerner discussed the ongoing work in NATO to develop the alliance's peacekeeping capabilities in support of the United Nations and the CSCE and with the involvement of NATO's partners in the North Atlantic Cooperation Council.

The President thanked Secretary General Woerner for his continued stewardship of the Atlantic alliance, and looks forward to working closely with him in continuing to adapt the alliance to meet the common challenges of the future.